

# Newsletter

Summer 2026

## Community Awareness Walk



It all started with a conversation on a Tuesday morning. Following the end of some funding in March, we had to stop our weekly supermarket delivery that we had come to rely on. This led to discussions about the reduction in local government funding and the increasing challenges facing charities across the sector.

As often happens at the foodbank, challenge quickly turned into opportunity. A couple of our wonderful volunteers put their heads together, full of ideas and determination, and soon came up with the fantastic concept of a September Community Awareness Walk. The event had several aims: bringing people together, opening our doors to the wider community, raising awareness of the work of the foodbank, and hopefully generating some much-needed funds.

We need not have worried. Hatfield responded in the most incredible way.

We walked, talked, shared stories, raised awareness and celebrated the strength of our community. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our wonderful community, an amazing £1,700 has been raised to date (plus Gift Aid), which will help us provide food, toiletries and essential support to local people in need, as well as contribute towards the running costs of our foodbank.

To everyone who walked with us, encouraged us, spoke about us, volunteered their time or donated so generously, thank you. We are truly overwhelmed by your support and incredibly grateful to be part of such a caring and compassionate community.



## Collections from our fabulous supermarket partners

Recently, we have been fortunate to take part in several supermarket collection drives. These events provide invaluable support, generating much-needed funds and food donations in addition to our fantastic weekly collections.

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated volunteers who generously give their time to make these collections possible. Our sincere thanks also go to the supermarkets for their community-minded support in welcoming us, and to the many customers whose kindness and generosity continue to make a real difference. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us support those in need within our community.

Asda - May - raised £27.20 and food donations weighed in at 386.2kg

Tesco - August - raised £27.96 and 294.16kg of food

Sainsbury's - September - raised almost £300

Waitrose - September - raised £268.14 and food donations of 93.525kg

We have some dates in our diary for more collection drives at Tesco Extra, Hatfield. Please come and talk to one of our volunteers and support the foodbank any way you can. We will be at Tesco for a 3 day event, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026.



## Harvest Festival 2026



We are already busy planning for this year's Harvest Festival collections, one of the most important periods in our calendar. We have been in touch with local schools, churches, councillors, businesses and individual supporters, and we look forward to working together with our community once again.

Harvest Festival provides a wonderful opportunity for us to replenish our shelves and ensure we are well prepared for the increased demand that often comes with the winter months and the approach of Christmas. Last year's Harvest Festival generated an additional 2,631.3 kg of food donations, making a significant difference to the support we were able to provide. We are hopeful that, once again, our community will respond with the generosity and kindness for which it is so well known.



## The Difference Support Can Make

There has been a news article written and published in The Mirror newspaper about a family who has needed our help recently, entitled "Hope beats hate as simple acts of kindness change lives across UK". We share this story below:



In Hatfield we met a bereaved father who lost his beloved daughter, aged eight, to sepsis in 2018. She had downs syndrome and a rare congenital heart defect that led to nine cardiac arrests. Battling with their mental health, the 52 year old former farmworker and his wife have struggled to work since, meaning they sometimes need the help of the local foodbank.

*The father spoke to us: "When my daughter passed away, it ripped our family apart. I should have walked my daughter down the aisle, not carried her down one. I went back to work but didn't realise I was having a breakdown. I collapsed at work, I became very, very poorly. As our life stumbled, and we struggled to move forward, we had to seek support from Hatfield Foodbank. They welcomed us." "It wasn't just the food that made a difference to us, it was the fact they showed such empathy and care for us in our very darkest moments. That's special"*

## Lived Experience Survey

Over recent months, we have invited people who use, or have previously used, our foodbank to share their experiences through a feedback survey. As with any service, understanding the views of those we support is essential in helping us learn, improve and ensure we are meeting the needs of our community.

We have been both humbled and encouraged by the responses we have received. The feedback has provided valuable insight into the difference that the foodbank makes during what can be some of the most difficult times in people's lives. We would like to share some of these comments with you, as they remind us why our work is so important.

Behind every donation is an act of kindness. Behind every food parcel is a volunteer who has given their time and care. The words shared with us are a testament to the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our volunteers and the strength of our community. They remind us that even in challenging times, compassion, understanding and a helping hand can make a world of difference.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports the foodbank. The words you can see below are a reminder that together, we are making a real and lasting impact on the lives of local people.



[hatfield.foodbank.org.uk](http://hatfield.foodbank.org.uk)



[info@hatfield.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@hatfield.foodbank.org.uk)



07504 627359



## Ways To Donate



The amount of emergency food parcels being given out each week has been steadily increasing over the last couple of years. It is only the amazing gifts that we receive from the public, supermarkets, companies, churches etc that we can continue to provide food to those who find themselves needing to ask for additional support.

For details of what, how and where you can give (including financial gifts), please see the Give Help section of our website.

You can financially donate via -

- Give today -<https://www.givetoday.co.uk/hatfieldfoodbank/>
- Paypal giving
- Go fund me
- Just giving

You can physically donate by -

- Supermarkets - there are collection points in Asda, Tesco and Waitrose
- Hold a food drive at work/school/neighbourhood

You can also donate using Bank The Food:

- <https://bankthefood.org/>
- or by downloading the app
- or by scanning this QR code



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please see our website or contact us at [manager@hatfield.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@hatfield.foodbank.org.uk)



Hatfield Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Gracemead Church and King's Community Church.

Hatfield Foodbank

Open Tuesdays, 11:30am to 2:00pm

Gracemead House, Woods Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 8HY

Find us on Facebook & Instagram



[hatfield.foodbank.org.uk](https://hatfield.foodbank.org.uk)



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